

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IT 03/00492

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 G01H1/00 G01V1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01H G01V G08B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No.      |
|------------|---|----------------------------|
| X<br>A     | US 4 956 999 A (BOHANNAN WILLIAM L ET AL)<br>18 September 1990 (1990-09-18)<br><br>column 5, line 37 - line 67<br>column 6, line 23 - line 39<br>column 7, line 53 - line 63<br>column 10, line 62 - column 11, line 19<br>column 14, line 42 - line 51<br>column 17, line 51 - column 18, line 58<br>figures 8,9 | 1-4,7,9,<br>10<br>5,6,8,11 |
| A          | US 5 101 195 A (CAILLAT KENNETH D ET AL)<br>31 March 1992 (1992-03-31)<br>the whole document  | 1,7,9                      |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/02/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

De la Cruz Valera, D

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IT 03/00492

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 4956999                                | A | 18-09-1990          | US 4901575 A               | 20-02-1990          |
|   |   |                     | CA 2001926 A1              | 31-05-1990          |
|   |   |                     | EP 0371631 A2              | 06-06-1990          |
|   |   |                     | JP 2212734 A               | 23-08-1990          |
| US 5101195                                | A | 31-03-1992          | US 5001466 A               | 19-03-1991          |